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**General Assembly
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Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem
and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory****Security Council
Sixty-ninth year**

Identical letters dated 2 October 2014 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I regret to inform you of the continuing turmoil and deterioration of the situation in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem, due to illegal and provocative policies that continue to be pursued by Israel, the occupying Power. These illegal policies continue to negatively impact and prejudice the situation on the ground, to cause suffering and hardship for the Palestinian people and to inflame already heightened tensions between the two sides.

The international community bears witness, yet again, to Israel's fixation with its illegal settlement enterprise, which includes the destruction, theft and confiscation of Palestinian lands and properties, the construction and expansion of both settlements and the Wall and the forced displacement of Palestinian families. Just today Israel announced that the construction of 2,610 new units for the illegal settlement of "Gi'vat Hamatos" in Beit Safafa in Occupied East Jerusalem, which was approved in 2012, will now begin and that the Government will publish tenders for construction. If implemented, these plans would further isolate East Jerusalem from Bethlehem, while facilitating Israel's attempts to link its illegal settlements of "Gilo" and "Har Homa". Moreover, in recent weeks, the Israeli Government announced plans to forcibly transfer approximately 13,000 Palestinian civilians from the Bedouin communities, the large majority constituting Palestine refugees, from their current areas of residence to the east of Jerusalem to an area near Jericho. The plan to undertake such a forced transfer, in grave breach of the Fourth Geneva Convention, is also clearly and directly related to Israel's illegal settlement schemes, particularly in the so-called E1 area.

We have repeatedly cautioned that this illegal Israeli settlement campaign is undermining and fragmenting the contiguity and territorial integrity of the State of Palestine and threatens the viability and prospects for the physical realization of the two-State solution on the basis of the pre-1967 borders. This is being carried out in



flagrant and grave breach of international humanitarian law and in complete defiance of condemnation by the international community. It also should be noted that in the past six months alone, at least 7,500 illegal Israeli settlers have been transferred into settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The Palestinian leadership reiterates its demand that the occupying Power rescind these latest decisions and demands that Israel, the occupying Power, cease immediately and completely all of its settlement activities in the Occupied State of Palestine, including in and around East Jerusalem, and abide by its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

I wish to also bring your attention to another dangerous development regarding the repeated incursions and provocations by extremist settlers at Al-Haram Al-Sharif in Occupied East Jerusalem. Yesterday, 1 October, a group of over 80 Israeli extremists entered the Al-Aqsa compound and assaulted Palestinian worshippers and attempted to attack Al-Aqsa guards all while the heavily-armed occupying forces who were escorting them looked on and refused to take any measures to halt the extremists' attacks. Such provocations not only threaten to ignite the already inflamed climate, but completely disregard the sensitive status of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the first *qibla* and third holiest site in Islam. Such continued illegal Israeli actions at Al-Haram Al-Sharif are also in violation of the numerous relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions calling for the cessation of all Israeli policies and measures aimed at altering the character, legal status and demography of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and for respect by Israel, the occupying Power, of its obligations under international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention, which prohibits such actions.

Furthermore, we must continue to draw the international community's attention to the ongoing plight of the more than 1.8 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip who continue to suffer exponentially from the massive human devastation and physical destruction caused by the more than 50-day criminal Israeli military aggression against Gaza. They must not be forgotten and all efforts must be undertaken to alleviate their suffering and hardships. The humanitarian disaster in Gaza is only worsening as the Israeli blockade continues to obstruct the massive reconstruction and recovery efforts so urgently required. Thousands of families rendered homeless by the Israeli destruction of their homes remain displaced in Gaza, sheltering in UNRWA schools or with host families; thousands of civilians continue to require medical care due to wounds sustained in the Israeli attacks; clean water for human consumption remains scarce; electricity cuts continue up to 18 hours a day because of lack of fuel for the power plant, affecting every sector of life; and thousands of unexploded ordnance launched by Israel at Gaza continue to threaten civilian lives and require removal prior to any effective reconstruction. In addition, yesterday, 1 October, Israeli military vehicles entered the southern Gaza Strip and opened fire on Palestinian farmers tending their agricultural fields, violating yet again the ceasefire agreed to by the parties on 26 August 2014. Also in Gaza, Rahaf Abu Jame, age 5, succumbed to her wounds sustained from an Israeli air strike that occurred during Israel's 50-day aggression. Rahaf's parents were also killed in that same air strike, along with at least 24 other members of the Abu Jame family. Rahaf is the third Palestinian in Gaza to have succumbed to injuries during the past week.

In addition to the above, I am compelled to draw the international community's attention to the several incidents that have taken place since our last letter, dated 17 September 2014. These actions, in violation of international law,

continue to inflict hardship on our people and are aggravating already-high tensions and instability at this time:

17 September

- Israeli naval forces opened fire off the coast of northern Gaza, injuring a Palestinian fisherman, Yousef Zayed, age 70, on a beach while waiting for his sons near al-Sudaniya.

18 September

- Several Israeli bulldozers entered the southern Gaza Strip and levelled Palestinian land. In the week prior, four Israeli bulldozers entered the Al Qarara area and demolished private land.
- Two Palestinians, Ayman Ziad Abu Jibba, age 23, and Abdullah Jibril Abu Aser, age 23, were killed and three were injured when an unexploded Israeli bomb blew up in the Al Shujaiya neighbourhood of eastern Gaza City.

22 September

- Israeli occupying forces assassinated two Palestinians, Marwan Kawasme and Amar Abu Aysha, both in their thirties, in the town of Al Khalil (Hebron), alleging that the two men were involved in the killing of the three Israeli settlers in June.
- Israeli occupying forces arrested four Palestinian fishermen from central Gaza Strip while they were on their fishing boat and arrested eight Palestinians, including two minors, from the West Bank.
- In demonstrations in Al Khalil, occupying forces shot and injured three Palestinians and caused suffering to many others as a result of the shooting of tear gas canisters.
- Israeli occupying forces heavily deployed at all gates of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound imposing restrictions on the entry of Muslim worshipers, violating the right to freedom of religion, ahead of the Jewish New Year.

24 September

- Israeli forces arrested Palestinians from Bethlehem, Tubas and Hebron districts, bringing the number of Palestinians imprisoned by Israeli occupying forces in the month of September to 560, including 163 prisoners from Al Khalil and 108 from Jenin. Currently, more than 6,000 Palestinians are being held in the occupying Power's prisons, enduring torture, abuse and horrific conditions of captivity.

30 September

- Israeli settlers, escorted by heavily armed Israeli forces, occupied 23 houses in the Palestinian neighbourhood of Silwan, south of the Old City of Jerusalem. The Israeli settlers stormed Silwan and forcibly evicted at least eight families. The families of Baydoun, Al Karaki, Abu Sbeih, Al Zawahra, Al Abbasi, Al Khayyat, Qarain and Al Yamani are now homeless.

In the light of the above and of what has been taking place over the past 47 years of Israel's belligerent military occupation of the Palestinian people and their land, it is high time for the international community, whose commitment to this

solution has been repeatedly reaffirmed, to act consistently with its longstanding principled commitment, and in accordance with relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions, to act now to bring an end to this illegal occupation. A clear demand must be made to Israel, the occupying Power, to cease all of its illegal actions and to commit to the path of peace. The international community, foremost the Security Council, has clear responsibilities in this regard and must no longer tolerate the occupying Power's empty pretexts, deception and utter disdain for international law and will. Collective action is necessary to hold Israel accountable for its violations and crimes and finally bring about the complete termination of this Israeli occupation. In this regard, we respectfully implore all members of the Security Council to fully support the Palestinian initiative to seek a Security Council resolution that would, inter alia, delineate a timeframe for an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 on the basis of the longstanding parameters enshrined in United Nations resolutions, the Madrid principles, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Quartet road map, in order to finally achieve the freedom and rights unjustly denied to the Palestinian people and allow for the realization of peace and security for both sides.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 522 letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 17 September 2014 (A/ES-10/657-S/2014/672), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) **Riyad Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations